U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Container Security Initiative (CSI)

FACT SHEET

How the Program Began

The Container Security Initiative (CSI) was launched in January 2002 in response to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States. It is part of U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) layered cargo security strategy.

CSI addresses the threat to border security and global trade posed by the potential terrorist threats to the global supply chain.

The program deploys CBP officers to foreign seaports to work with their host government counterparts to target and examine high-risk cargo before it is placed on vessels bound for the United States.

CSI inspections protect global trade lanes and systems between overseas points of origin and the United States. This process enables greater security through collaboration.

How the Program Has Changed

Initially, CSI was heavily dependent on personnel. Over the last several years, CSI has been able to significantly reduce the number of CBP officers stationed at foreign ports due to advances in technology, increased levels of cooperation and stronger partnerships.

In FY2012, CSI teams reviewed over 10.9 million bills of lading and conducted over 49,400 exams in conjunction with host country counterparts.

CONTAINER SECURITY INITIATIVE

CSI

Last year CBP Field Operations processed $2.3 trillion in total trade value.

CSI officers stationed at CBP's National Targeting Center-Cargo (NTC-C) conduct remote targeting for high volume ports, and review scan images and mitigate radiation alarms from ports where there is not a CBP presence. CSI has increased the number of CBP officers stationed at the NTC-C to perform much of the work that CBP officers were performing at foreign locations.

CSI Core Elements

- Using intelligence and automated advance targeting information to identify and target containers that pose a risk;
- Prescreening those containers that pose a risk at the port of departure before they arrive at the port of entry; and
- Using state-of-the-art detection technology to scan containers that pose a risk.

Where It Operates

CSI operates in 58 ports worldwide, in regions including North, Central, and South America; the Caribbean; Europe; Africa; the Middle East; and throughout Asia. Approximately 80 percent of all maritime cargo imported into the United States originates in or transits through a CSI port.

Future Direction

CSI will become a hybrid of different operational models designed and developed around the uniqueness of each foreign port.

CSI continues to be engaged in a broad, strategic effort to expand the scope of its targeting and examinations with host country partners. This effort will proceed on a country-by-country basis to select mission areas of mutual interest to include narcotics, IPR/trade and general contraband. ■

FACT SHEET

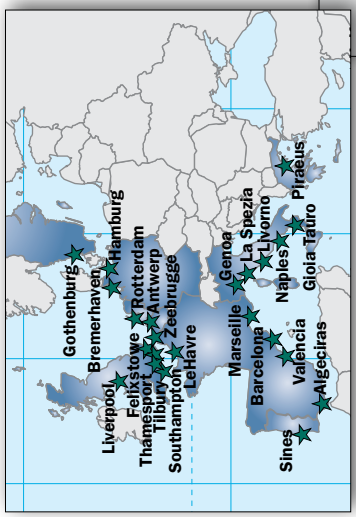
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

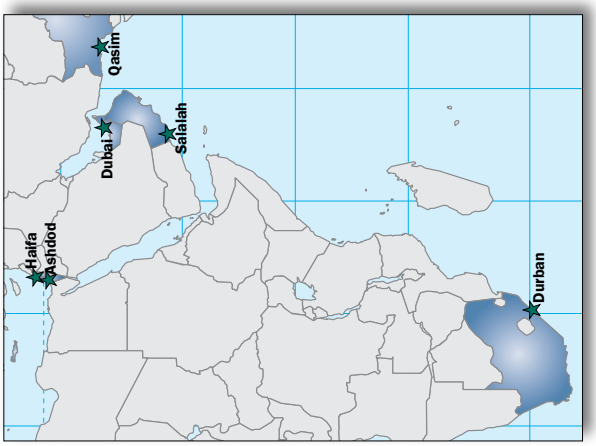
Container Security Initiative (CSI)

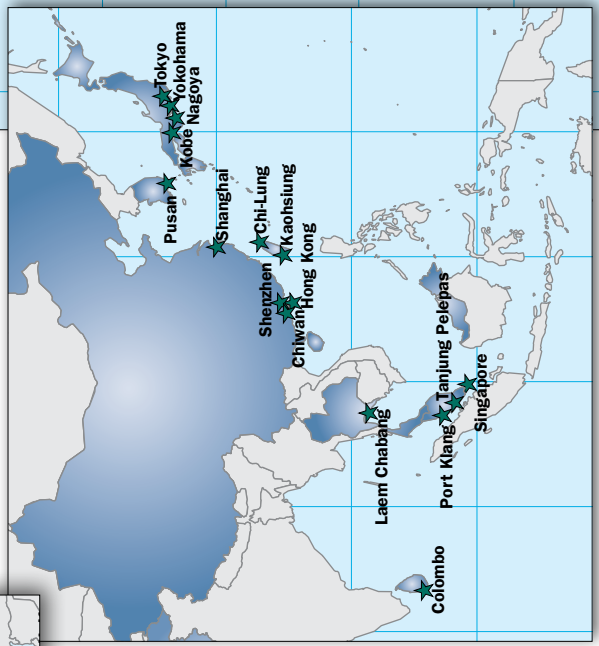
Container Security Initiative

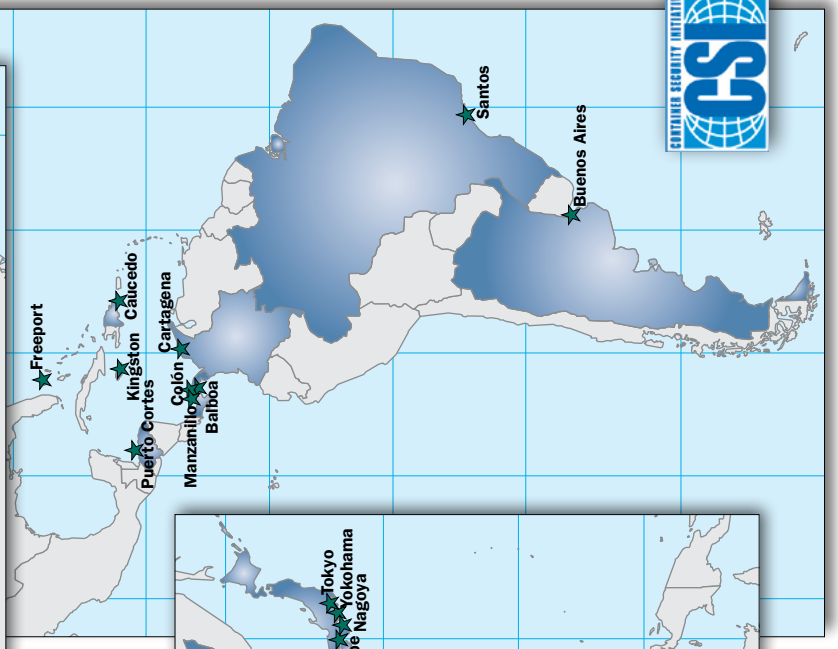
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

OPERATIONAL PORTS









Currently Operational Ports

as of 4/12

For more information, visit CBP.gov or contact the Office of Public Affairs at 202-344-1770.